

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF MISSISSIPPI**

JOHN BARNHARDT, et al.,)	
)	
Plaintiffs,)	
)	
and)	
)	
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,)	Civil Action No. 4:65-cv-01300-HTW-LRA
)	1300(E)
Plaintiff-Intervenor,)	
)	
v.)	
)	
MERIDIAN MUNICIPAL SEPARATE)	
SCHOOL DISTRICT, et al.,)	
)	
Defendants.)	
)	

MOTION TO WITHDRAW COUNSEL

Counsel for Private Plaintiffs John Barnhardt, et al. respectfully moves this Court for an order granting this motion to withdraw Natasha Merle as counsel of record for Plaintiffs in the above-captioned case. Ms. Merle will no longer be a member of the staff of the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc. (“LDF”) upon the signing of her commission as a United States District Court Judge within the next few weeks.

Fred L. Banks, Jr. of Phelps Dunbar LLP and John S. Cusick of LDF will continue to represent Plaintiffs in this matter.

Respectfully submitted this 12th day of July, 2023.

s/ Fred L. Banks, Jr.

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s/ John S. Cusick

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**Admitted pro hac vice*